



H.Con.Res. 261 - Commemorating the centennial anniversary of the sailing of the Navy's "Great White Fleet," launched by President Theodore Roosevelt on December 16, 1907, from Hampton Roads, Virginia, and returning there on February 22, 1909

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 261 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Thelma Drake (R-VA) on November 15, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, but was not considered.

H.Con.Res. 261 is expected to be considered on the floor on December 11, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 261 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Commemorates the wisdom of President Theodore Roosevelt in developing and launching the Great White Fleet;
- Supports a one-time designation of a day to celebrate the 100th centennial of the Great White Fleet and the special role the Fleet played in building enduring friendships with important allies and partner nations;
- Commends efforts by the Department of the Navy to maintain and strengthen our cooperative partnerships with foreign nations and to safeguard our Nation's interests in the maritime domain;
- Commends efforts by the Department of the Navy in leading the development of a Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower; and
- Honors the sacrifices made and services rendered by the servicemembers of the Navy, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard and the civilians who constitute our maritime services.

BACKGROUND

President Theodore Roosevelt launched the Navy's "Great White Fleet" on December 16, 1907, from Hampton Roads, Virginia. The ships returned to Virginia on February 22,

1909. The Great White Fleet marked the emergence of the United States as a true global seapower. The U.S. was able to dispatch 16 new battleships on a worldwide deployment for 14 months.

The Fleet, in providing a tangible demonstration of the forward naval presence of the United States in the Pacific, also reinforced the message of how important maritime stability and security are to the United States.

The ships were manned by 14,000 sailors, sailed 43,000 miles and made 20 port calls on 6 continents over the course of their 14 month voyage.

STAFF CONTACT

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